



New Ordinances in Effect in Mansfield

October 18, 2016 – The Mansfield Town Council recently approved ordinances regarding the use of the Mansfield Town Square – recently renamed Betsy Paterson Square – and other public spaces within the Town. All of the Town’s ordinances are available for review and reference on the Town’s website, mansfieldct.gov.

Included in the recent ordinances are Amendments to Ordinance Regarding Streets and Sidewalks, specifically the “Use of Sidewalks by Bicycles, Hover boards, Scooters, Skaters and Skateboarders.” This section of the ordinance prohibits the use of “any motorized bicycle, hover board, motorized scooter or other motor powered vehicle on any sidewalk or upon the Town Square Area” (excluding “wheelchairs or other mobility devices utilized by disabled persons.”). This ordinance also prohibits the use of skateboards or bicycles “on any stonewall, retaining wall, railings, stairways, railings, furniture, planting beds, lawn areas or pavers” or in the Storrs Center Parking Garage. Bicyclists using bike racks within the garage are asked to walk their bikes inside the garage in an effort to maintain a safe environment for cyclists and motorists alike. Violations of this ordinance may result in a ticket and/or fine. (Read the full ordinance: [§166-13](#).)

The Mansfield Town Square Ordinance regulates the use of the Square by the public and includes a prohibition against the use “use of tobacco products, including lit cigarettes, cigars, pipes and the use of other tobacco products” within the Square.

Betsy Paterson Square is available for use by the public through an application process with the Mansfield Downtown Partnership. The goals of this process is to ensure that all groups have access to the Square and that the Square does not become double-booked with events.

An application to use Paterson Square is now available on the Partnership’s website (mansfieldct.org/mdp). Residents and groups interested in hosting an event are asked to complete and submit the application no less than six weeks prior to their event date. The Partnership will review each application as it is received, refer the applicant to other departments if necessary (e.g. if a permit is required for food service). Once the application is reviewed, the Partnership will provide written confirmation to the person or group. There is a \$10 application fee. Other fees may apply if, for example, assistance from Public Works or Public Safety is required to properly execute the event.

Examples of events permitted on Paterson Square include but are not limited to information tables, concerts, dance performances, and poetry readings. Prohibited activities include overnight camping and sleeping. Questions about events and the application process may be directed to the Partnership (860.429.2740).